



HR0800

LRB099 14413 MST 38511 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Rev.
4 Allen Foster, Jr., who passed away on August 1, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr. was born on February 6, 1959 in
6 Chicago, the third child of the union of Jessie Mae (nee
7 Wilson) and Allen Foster, Sr.; and

8 WHEREAS, As a child, Allen Foster, Jr. had an insatiable
9 thirst for knowledge and loved to read the World Book
10 Encyclopedia and he readily reported to his family that he was
11 the "smartest" kid in the class; he graduated from Horace Mann
12 Elementary School and South Shore High School in Chicago; he
13 received his associate degree from Prairie State College; and

14 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Allen Foster,
15 Jr. joined the United States Air Force, serving from 1976 to
16 1983; he was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff
17 Sergeant; and

18 WHEREAS, On December 19, 1979, while stationed at Keeler
19 Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, Allen Foster, Jr.
20 accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior; he was called to
21 the ministry in 1980; he was an avid student of the Bible and

1 the great theologians; he was extremely well-read and an
2 extraordinary preacher; and

3 WHEREAS, In his 30 years of congregational ministry, Allen
4 Foster, Jr. served as associate minister at various churches,
5 including Village Bible Church (Park Forest), Christ Temple
6 Community Church (Gary, Indiana), Christ Temple Cathedral
7 (Chicago), and First Baptist Church (Chicago); he joined
8 Merrill Avenue Baptist Church in 1996, where he served as
9 Sunday school teacher, evangelism and discipleship leader,
10 Chairman of the Mission Department, and Divorce Care Leader; he
11 also headed 2 missionary teams to England and Haiti; in 2009,
12 he was ordained by the late Rev. Austin Smith, Jr. of
13 Compassion Baptist Church (formally Merrill Avenue); while
14 there, he served as an associate and interim pastor before
15 being elected as senior pastor on December 8, 2013; he
16 sincerely loved his church family and devoted himself to their
17 care; and

18 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr.'s keen knowledge of American
19 politics, socio-economics, and world views, both inspired and
20 challenged others to learn more about the world in which they
21 lived; he was a political pundit to many; his lively commentary
22 always gave sound perspective on many subjects; and

23 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr. married Audrey Wesley on August

1 4, 1990; their children, Allen III, Jaime, and Mary were
2 blessed with a devoted father; over the years, he and Audrey
3 loved and cared for many others; and

4 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr. was employed by Peoples Gas
5 Light & Coke Company (IntegrYS) in Chicago from 1985 to 2014;
6 he retired from the Gas Operation Department as Senior Service
7 Specialist No. 1; he formed both loyal and lasting friendships
8 in every area of his life; and

9 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr. was preceded in death by his
10 parents; his grandfather, Jessie; and his aunt, Faynell; and

11 WHEREAS, Allen Foster, Jr. is survived by his wife, Audrey;
12 his son, Allen III (and his mother, Patricia Foster Cox); his
13 daughters, Jaime and Mary (Kenny); his siblings, Kim, Renee,
14 Tanya (Kurtray), and Mark; his grandmother, Gertrude; his
15 grandchildren, Antonio (A.J.), Jeremy, Amari, Allen, Aiden,
16 and Ava; his brother-in-law, John (Kimberly); his
17 mother-in-law, Maggie; his father-in-law, John; his aunts and
18 uncles, Joann, Loretta, Debra, and Jerry; and his nieces and
19 nephews, Justin, Kyle, Demi, Constance, Chanelle, Stephaney,
20 Kyle, Dylan, Reagan, and Ryan; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 mourn the death of Rev. Allen Foster, Jr. and recognize his
2 life, commitments, and achievements; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Allen Foster, Jr. as an expression
5 of our deepest sympathy.